

SPAWAR Wins DoN Outstanding Small Business Program of the Year!

BY TANIA RUDOCK



From left to right: Mrs. Susan Livingston, former Undersecretary of the Navy; Mr. Mike Jaggard, Executive director, Acquisition and Business Management; Ms. Julie Krnc, Director, SPAWAR Small Business Program; Ms. Nancy Tarrant, Director, DoN SADBUI Office; Mr. Glenn Delgado, Deputy Director, Business Development, DoN SADBUI Office; Mr. John J. Young, Jr., Asst. Secretary of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition; and RADM Slaght, Commander of SPAWAR.

SAN DIEGO- The Honorable Susan Morrissey Livingston, former Under Secretary of the Navy, presented RADM Kenneth Slaght and Ms. Julie Krnc, SPAWAR, Director Small Business Program, with the first "Secretary's Award for the Department of the Navy's Outstanding Small Business Program" in a ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. The award was given in recognition of the Command's exemplary achievements in the support and utilization of small businesses in fiscal year 2002. Livingston was Under Secretary of the Navy at the time the award was presented.

The award recognizes the Command that has shown superior performance throughout the year and has contributed significantly to the achievement of best meeting their small business goals and objectives. The competition was open to all Navy and Marine Corps Commands, including the US Marine Corps, Office of Naval Research, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Systems and Special Projects (SSP), and Military Sealift Command (MSC). A formal panel was convened to evaluate the annual Small Business Accomplishment Report submitted by each Navy and Marine Corps Command.

The success of SPAWAR's Small Business Program can be attributed to the collective contributions of senior management, contracting, program management, and small business personnel. Captain Basil F. Gray, SPAWAR, Director for Contracts and Julie Krnc, Director, SPAWAR Small Business Program, received individual letters recognizing their exceptional leadership and dedicated efforts.



"We began a focused, targeted effort to win this award two years ago," said Ms. Krnc. "It reflects the commitment that the entire Command has for the Small Business Program. It is definitely a team effort!" Captain Gray stated, "Supporting small business is just the right thing to do!"

Each negotiator and contracting officer works closely with the Small Business Office and technical personnel to actively identify procurements suitable for small business set-asides. The SPAWAR e-commerce site, used by contracting personnel to publish all contracting opportunities within the Command, was awarded a Department of Defense Certificate of Recognition for Acquisition and a Department of Defense Excellence in Productivity Award in May 2000 at the Pentagon for its highly efficient capabilities. The e-commerce site allows small businesses access to future business opportunities by promoting communication with industry in respect to requirements.

"I am very proud of our negotiators and our e-commerce site and how they've contributed to our ability to achieve this Small Business Award," said Ms. Diane Thornevell, Contracts Division Director.

The Small Business Team itself participates as committee or board members on nearly a dozen different councils, committees and associations on behalf of SPAWAR and small businesses. Their exceptional hard work made it possible to accomplish the Command's Small Business Improvement Plan which includes participating in more than 25 outreach events reaching over 5,500 attendees, involving key management and acquisition personnel in our outreach program, conducting over 2,000 counseling sessions (three times as many as FY 2001), and providing formal training to more than 2,000 small businesses. In addition, SPAWAR Headquarters manages nearly fifty percent of the Department of Navy Mentor Protégé Agreements.

Winning this award required an enormous amount of commitment and dedication from the Command. As a result of the Command's collaborative efforts and dedication, SPAWAR exceeded its small business prime contract targets in awards to small business, small disadvantaged business, women-owned small business concerns and Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions. It is the dedicated joint efforts between these departments and their use of effective communication mediums, including the SPAWAR e-commerce site that brings the Command this special recognition.

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